



Georgia On My Mind

Monthly Newsletter of the ARRL Georgia Section



February 2023

2 Big Events - WFD & ARES Meeting

Items of Interest in this edition

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2/13-17/23 - School Club Roundup

2/25/23 Dalton Hamfest - Dalton
www.facebook.com/DaltonAmateurRadioClub/

3/18/23 - Sevier County (TN) Hamfest

4/1-2/23 - Georgia Park POTA Day

6/3/23 - Atlanta Hamfest www.atlantahamfest.org

Georgia on My Mind is a monthly newsletter of the ARRL, Georgia Section, highlighting the activities of Amateur Radio Operators and Clubs within the State.

To submit pictures, articles, or notices, please email the editor Karen Spradlin, K4LJS, at GeorgiaSectionARRL@gmail.com before the 5th of each month.

To see previous issues of **Georgia on My Mind**:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f6WBBhYzN-4Z-D69x0ceGIIpGcUgWl1?usp=share_link

For me clubs are a very important part of bringing in new hams and training hams. In our clubs we should learn the skill needed to be good operators and to enjoy the hobby. But, to do this we need experienced hams to share their knowledge from building antennas to bouncing signals off the moon. Sadly, I find that we don't have the time or interest in helping our struggling hams.

So, frustration sets in and many leave the hobby.

In order to help strengthen our hobby and make our clubs more interesting, I'm seeking those that would be willing to share programs with clubs in each district. As a club president it is hard to find new and interesting subjects for an entire year. So if you, or someone you know of, would be willing to travel or maybe even present a zoom presentation, please let me know. I will compile a list of contacts and the subject to be shared. When completed I will share with everyone that list.

I ask that you take this seriously and consider helping with this project. It will be to the benefit of all our clubs and ARES groups.

I am not the best at expressing my thoughts and feelings in words as you can tell. But, I hope you understand that I greatly feel we need to do more to advance our hobby of Amateur Radio. I for one as many of you. Have spent what feels like a lifetime as a club officer or leader in ARES to just let it go to the wayside. Thanks for help with this in advance. I look forward to hearing from you.

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Best Regards,
Felton Floyd, AF4DN
Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society, President
DEC NW GA District
EC Gordon County
GA Baptist Disaster Relief, Leadership

Georgia ARES State Meeting

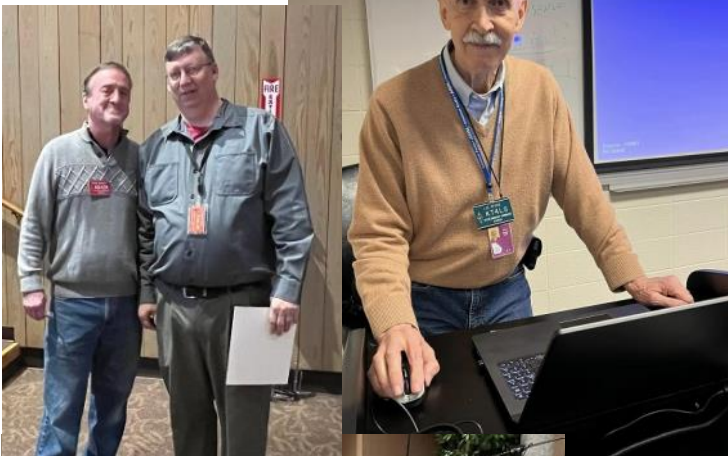
On Saturday, February 11, 2023, at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC), Lee Stone KT4LS orchestrated a day of member recognition and informative classes.

Classes included:

- Portable/Field Operations - Frank Dean
- AREDN Network Display and Demo
- GA ARES Time Reporting - Bob Garza
- Winlink Proficiency Program - Russell Prevost
- Situational Awareness Map - Brian Haren
- Emergency Power - Hal Collier
- D-star/D-Rats - John Davis
- Fldigi - Bob Garza
- ATT FirstNet Serv. & GA AuxComm - John Davis
- Georgia Hospital Emergency Operations - Bret Smith
- How WX4PTC and Georgia ARES can help the NWS in PTC - Robert Burton

SEC Lee Stone, KT4LS

David Benoist AG4ZR
& Frank Dean K4SJR



Fielding
questions
after Frank's
Portable Op-
erations class

Awards included:

Frank Dean K4SJR
Distinguished Ser-
vice



Larry Whited
AB4NX - Ham of
the Year 2022

ARES Class at GPSTC



Joe Domaleski KI4ASK & David Benoist AG4ZR



Georgia Participates in Winter Field Day

Club	Partici- pants	Category	Contacts	Points	Location
Albany ARC	13	2I	155	2580	Lee County Fire Department, Station 1
ARC of Columbia County					Georgia-Carolina Council of BSA
Athens ARC	25	3O	1150	19,645	Watson Mill Bridge State Park K-2207
Atlanta RC					Sweetwater Creek State Park
Cherokee Capital (Gordon Co.)	8	4I	165	1484	
Cherokee County ARS	12	4O			Red Top Mountain State Park K-2194
Coastal ARS	12	2O	55		Memorial Park on Tybee Island
Columbus ARC	35	2O	1391	22,935	Private property in Cataula, GA
Fayette County ARC					Chattahoochee Bend State Park K-2168
Georgia Tech RC					Georgia Tech Campus
Jasper RC (Pickens Co.)	23	2I	348	12,140	Cornerstone Church
Monroe County ARC	11	2I	100	1330	Monroe County Fire Station 1
North Fulton ARL					Wildcat Mountain
Piedmont ARC (Putnam, Green, Jasper, Hancock & Washington)	25	3I			Clubhouse, Eatonton
Thomasville ARC			136		EOC in Remington
Tri-County (Gwinnett, Hall, Barrow)					Don Carter State Park K-2171
West Georgia ARC					Little Tallapoosa Park

Albany Amateur Radio Club



Jim (W4MNL) helping Rosalie find the signals. She was a natural!

The highlight of our Field Day was receiving a visit from 10-year-old, Rosalie and her grandpa, Greg (KA4PZY). She was invited to listen in on all the chatter that Field Day provided. After a little instruction and listening for a bit she started moving up and down the band like a champ!

It was a good time to gather, make contacts, fellowship, learn something new about our equipment, and break bread with fellow club members and the community.



John Henderson, KN4OWG teaching how to use a lap-top connected to a NanoVNA.

Jim Manuel, W4MNL and Greg Crowder, KA4PZY are paying close attention.

Harold Pinson (K4WHP), Jim Manuel (W4MNL), & Dr. Gene Clark (W4AYK)

We extend a special "Thank You" to Lee County Fire Department, Station #1, for providing the space to set up and operate this year.

155 Contacts

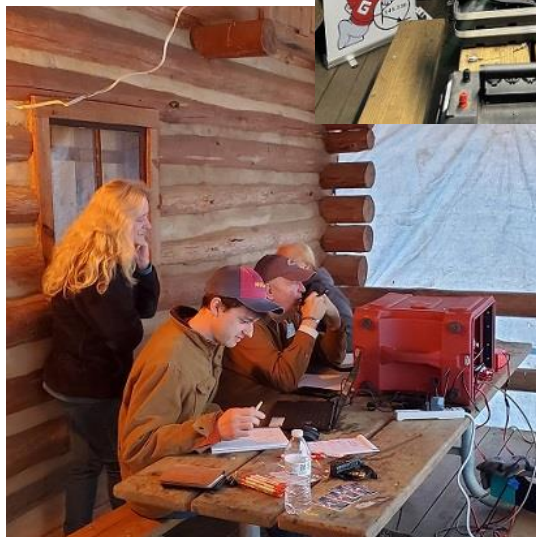


Georgia Participates in Winter Field Day

Athens Radio Club

Claude Ray, AC4SH

*Bob Schaaf NL6HN,
James L. Reeves,
KF4AQO, & Tammy
Hartman.*



Made 1150
Contacts
from Watson
Mill Bridge
State Park
K-2207

Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society

Operated as 4I, with 2 phone stations, 1 CW station, and 1 PSK station.



Kelly Norton, W4DDE & Gil Johnson, AG4JO

Atlanta Radio Club



Cherokee County Amateur Radio Society

493 contacts, equaling 8300 points, operating from Red Top Mountain State Park, K-2194.



Georgia Participates in Winter Field Day

Georgia Tech

We've had a pretty rough past couple of months, with a combination of a change of leadership, building renovations disconnecting our antennas, and a lightning strike over the summer still knocking out our station. Unfortunately, we were not able to get back on the air for the November SSB sweepstakes, but with the help of the amazing Audrey KM4BUN coming to Tech we have been able to resume contesting, starting with NAQP/NACC. Though, that wasn't without a few more hitches, including our building almost catching fire!

We are proud to report that the Georgia Tech Amateur Radio Club participated in both the North American Collegiate Championship and Winter Field Day so far this year.

Our club is currently focusing on encouraging more students into the wonderful world of Amateur Radio by providing opportunities to get on the air and have some fun! After promoting W4AQL at Georgia Tech's Spring Organization Fair, we had an excellent turnout for the club's monthly "Open Shack Night" where we demonstrated FT8. Most of those who attended that night came back this past weekend to see and participate in some contesting during Winter Field Day.

We started out with the arrow antenna in Tech Green just steps from the shack in the Electrical and Computer Engineering building. As a group, we all worked to plan out a few satellite passes and took turns with the antenna trying to make a contact. Unfortunately, we were unable to do so due to some time constraints, but we were able to successfully receive the downlink at times!

As I'm sure you know, trying to make satellite contacts by hand with an arrow antenna can be difficult (especially in the city!), but we all had so much fun.

Afterward, we gave those who had never contested before the chance to get on the air and dive

right into fast-paced pile-ups and logging. Through encouragement and training from some other experienced amateur radio operators, we soon had contacts rolling in. Overall, it proved to be a great weekend, filled with learning, and excitement. We hope to continue involving students from all backgrounds in the club here on campus, and we invite alumni, faculty, and others to come to see the shack and operate here at Georgia Tech!



L-R Lawrence Ro KJ7JVM, Bruce Yang KN8U (previous president/alum), Jack McElroy KM4ZIA, Ethan Thomas, no license, Audrey McElroy KM4BUN, & Chris Hunt, no license.

Columbus Amateur Radio Club

We had about 35 people come through over both days and were on private property in Cataula, GA, just north of Columbus. We operated as a 20, making 1391 contacts and earning 22,935 points! We also held a test session on Saturday, also. We have a new Technician and a newly minted General operator in our club now.



Georgia Participates in Winter Field Day

Coastal Amateur Radio Club

We had about 12 operators showed up at Memorial Park on Tybee Island, making 55 contacts as a 20.

Bob Pledsted,
N5GNA, and Bill
Nesmith, W4ZDP



Tony
Abruzzio,
W4TYB,
working
his 10M
portable
with (L-R)
Ralph
Maggioni,
KM4MCL,
Jack
Lytgen,
NW4TF
and Rick
Pruden,
KO4TLR.

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

A group of local hams hiked to the top of Wildcat Mountain to participate in Winter Field Day as a SOTA (Summits on the Air) event. They created a video of the exercise, which can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qN3MBfZuAe8>



West Georgia Amateur Radio Club

Little Tallapoosa Park was the host of Winter Field Day this year.



Fayette County Amateur Radio Club

to the right: Jeff Davis KO4LEG, Ryan Macera K7CPT, Ryan Haren W8BYH



Georgia Participates in Winter Field Day

Thomasville Amateur Radio Club

Saturday was a pleasant day and several of our members took advantage of the nice weather to set up portable antennas in the adjoining green space by the Emergency Operations Center.

Homer-KN4UTJ set up his Octopus antenna which uses hamsticks for 15, 20, 40 and 75 meters. He uses a small rotor to add some directivity to the antenna pattern. A very nice antenna system for portable operations.

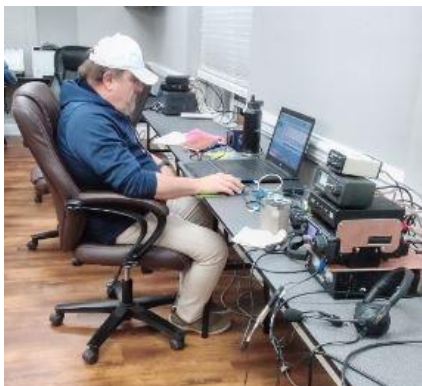


Jimmy Hitt-KK4QGN setup a 40 meter half wave end fed wire antenna running east-west. This rather simple antenna worked quite well as it increased our contact count in a westerly direction.

Larry – KG4YZF setup a vertical antenna on the other side of the greenway ditch. It was a very impressive antenna and pulled in the best DX for the session. He made contact with Hawaii and Brazil (both around a distance of 4,500 miles) on 10 meters using single sideband.



Andy – NX4AC and Pat – KO4IBP set up a non-resonant vertical antenna. This antenna started existence as a LDG S9V-18 antenna and has been modified with a choke coil and elevated radials into a work horse antenna for 20-6 meters. Yes, a tuner is required, but it sure gets out the signal and pulls in the DX as expected from a vertical. Fast deployment and weather resistance makes for a winning package.



Jasper Radio Club

Having gathered the previous day for lunch and antenna setup, the Jasper Radio club experienced an unprecedented turnout for this year's Winter Field Day! Old hams, new hams, hams we hadn't seen in a hot minute, they all came out of the woodwork - two even drove their big rig across the country and surprised everyone, for a total of 23.

With Frank, K4SJR and Ricky, NG4DX leading the charge, bonus points were the name of the day. Making "only" 348 contacts, we managed to do so on 160m, 75-80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m, 6m, 2m, 1.25m, 70cm, 33cm, 23cm, 11cm, and even 5cm earning us 12,140 points.



L-R Charles Spradlin N4NGA, Karen Spradlin K4LJS, Frank Dean K4SJR, "Murdock" Gragg W4JNR, Ron Rucker N4MIC, Robert Davis KJ4AFG, Bill Zercher KM4MTM, Bryan Smith KE4HSV, Matthew Street KO4UKN, Don Coltrane KJ4UC

Pete Payne KG4YOL and Robert Davis KJ4AFG



A few of the antennas



Georgia Participates in Winter Field Day

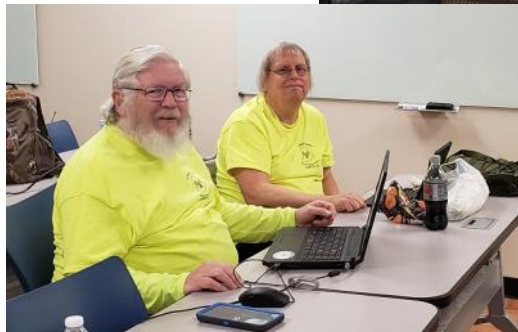
Monroe County Amateur Radio Club



Justin Marler, K2JFM holds his new "Bad Muthah Launcher," which helped the crew put a multiband antenna high in the trees beside the Fire Station #1.



Connie Holland, KK4ZFL & David McCutcheon KO4HRT



Craig Glaze WB4WH & Greg Bridges AA4AB

Piedmont Amateur Radio Club

We had around 20 to 25 people show up for the event. Everyone enjoyed the food, fellowship and making contacts on the radio.

Alan Slutsky KA4FJV, Brent Strite KA3ZPM, Larry Gage KM4LFT, Carl Brorup KB4WNJ



Nathan Kring II KQ4BTS, Gary Luke KE4GVG, Alan Slutsky KA4FJV



Tri-County Amateur Radio Club

Billy Fallin WU4E was recognized as Grand Marshal for the 2023 W4T winter field day event



Chili cookoff winner Scott Youmans, KO4WTG

Chase Bryant, KO4YDY



Max Chavez, KN4OTT

TechFest, ARISS and CPR

TechFest

Held January 14, 2023, the annual TechFest was well-attended, with many cool demonstrations and exhibits.

Several tables were dedicated to hands-on activities for kids, including soldering and small electrical kits. A STEM high school had their own display of radio astronomy and a see-through helicopter was available to sit on and activate the controls.

Additionally, the GARS VE Team had a great exam session, with:

8 New Technicians

1 New General

3 Upgraded to General

1 Upgraded to Extra



ARISS

ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) lets students worldwide experience the excitement of talking directly with crew members of the International Space Station, inspiring them to pursue interests in careers in science, technology, engineering and math, and engaging them with radio science technology through amateur radio.

For those wishing to become an ARISS contact, the next window for applications will be from February 20 - March 31, please go to ariss.org, then open **Educational Contacts** and select **Apply**.

Congratulations to these Georgia schools who were accepted for an ARISS contact in the second half of 2023:

Augusta Prep, Augusta

Burress Elementary, Marietta

Webb Bridge Middle School, Alpharetta

CPR Class for Cherokee Capital ARC

On Monday January 23, members of the Gordon County ARES/Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society attended a CPR class. The class covered CPR for adults, children, and infants. Choking and AEDs were also covered.

With the Public Service events that our group as-

sists with, we have found that more and more medical emergencies are occurring. Along with the training, the group has purchased a trauma medical first aid kit. This allows our group to deal with more than just a simple cut. This kit will be with the group at all public service events, club, and ARES events. Additionally, we have a First Aid / Stop The Bleed class scheduled for March.



Georgia Parks on the Air - April 1-2

Georgia Parks on the Air – Keep Signing Up!

We're getting close to the First Annual (we hope) Georgia Parks on the Air event on April 1 and 2, 2023. All the info you need can be found on the event's web page: <https://gaparks.org/>.

As you can see, we have almost all of the parks covered for a least a short time at some point during the weekend. However, we still need a lot more operators, even at those parks where someone has already signed up.



The goal is this event is not only to activate each park, but to have as many operators, on as many modes, for as much of operating period as possible. So, even if someone has signed up at a park, there will almost certainly be numerous bands and modes that are available. If the other operators are on during the afternoon, you can take the morning slot; if they're on 20 meters, you can operate 40; if they're doing voice, you can do digital or CW. One way or another, there will always be room for more operators.

You may want to contact the other operators via email (email addresses should be available on <https://qrz.com>) to coordinate in advance, and you'll want to take the usual steps to avoid interfering with each other, but it shouldn't be a problem. All those hunters out there would really appreciate it if you'd jump in and get on the air, no matter how many other operators there are.

VHF Contest Jan. 21

Fourlanders Contest Team

At the beginning things were slow and we thought we were going to be disappointed. But it did pick up. Ron WW8RR and Bob K4VBM stayed up for early Sunday morning to take advantage of Meteor Scatter and got several new grids for multipliers. Turned out that we set a new record score for January from EM84 besting our last years score by 10k or so, with a score of 75,140 points. Bill has sent the logs in to ARRL and I've posted on 3830. I don't want to jinx us but we are in FIRST place multi on 3830.

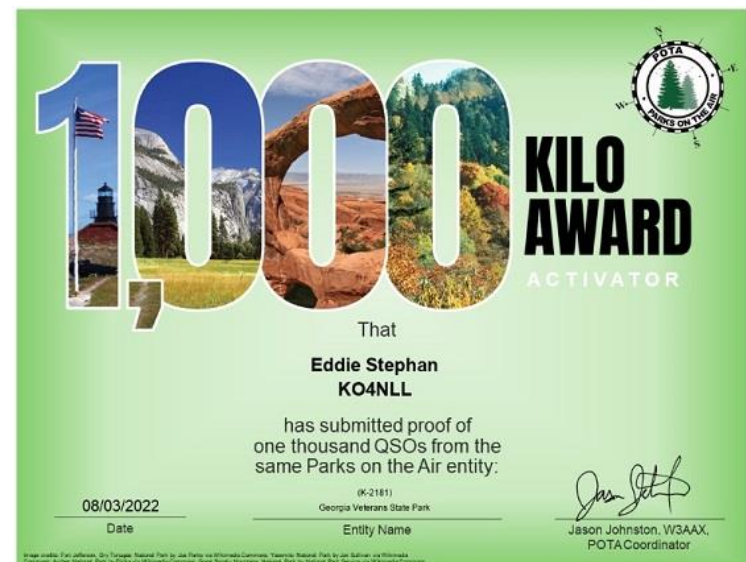
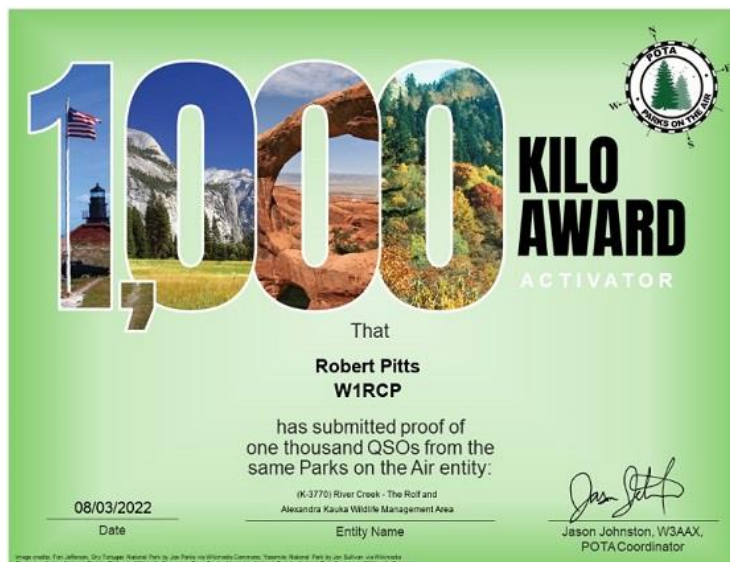
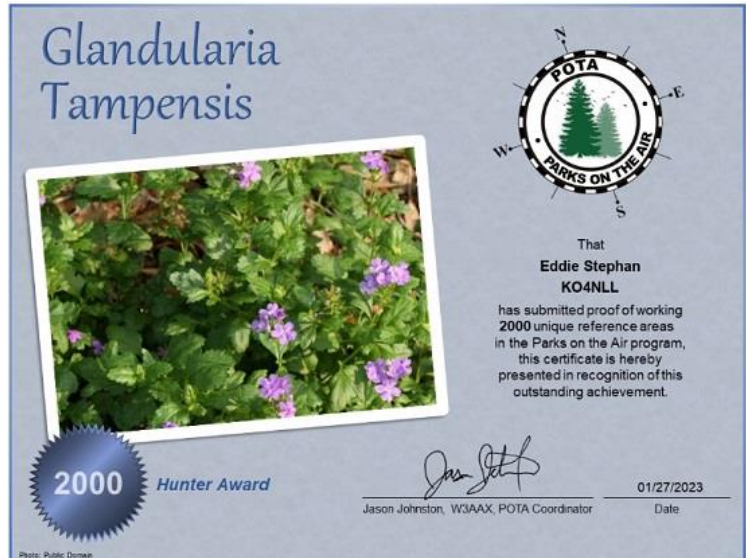
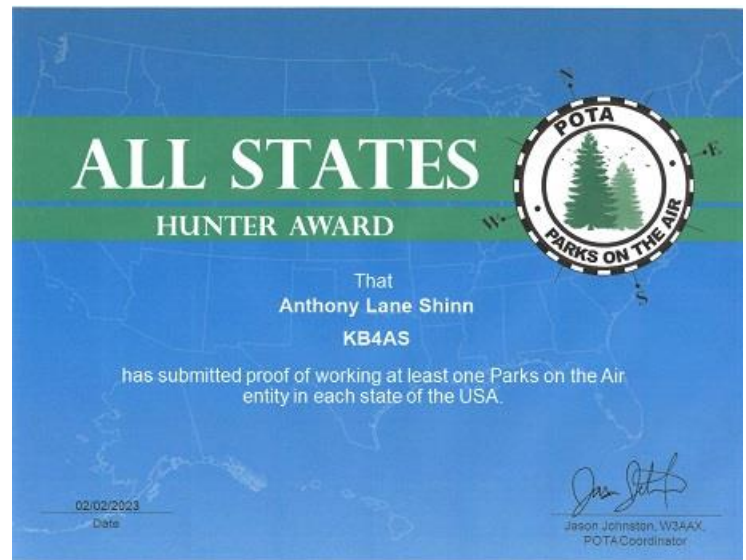


We did not do any EME this time as it was new moon and conditions were predicted to not be good.

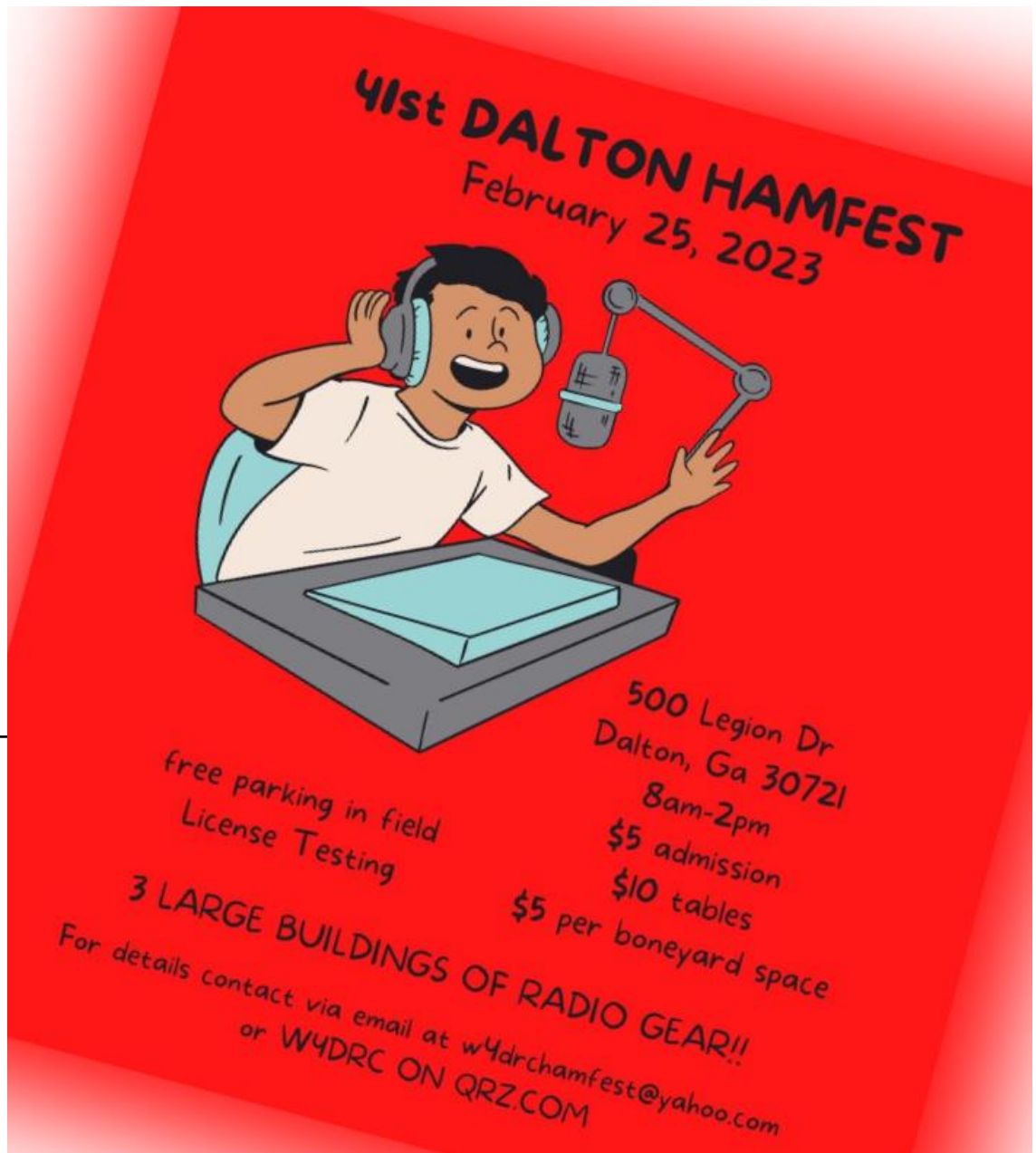
Operators for the contest were Brian McCarthy NX9O, Kim Hensley WG8S, Bill Pence KI4US, Bob Hensley K4VBM, Jerry Long W5TDY, Brad Bitzkowski KM4QHI, Ron Roers WW8RR, Kos (S Kosmetatos) N4SDK, and Bob Lear W4ZST. We had visitors: Frank Dean K4SJR and Ricky Bramlett NG4DX from Jasper and Mike Stipick KC4RI. We did meet at Roosters for lunch on Saturday and I think nine of us were there carrying on our tradition. Once again, Jerry W5TDY, our master cook has fed us (and spoiled us) royally.



POTA Awards



Dots, Dashes & Tidbits



Georgia Section Nets

ARES Phone & Digital Nets

Note: GA ARES Net information can be found at gaares.org – Select Nets & Frequencies

Georgia Section ARES Net:

Section Net Manager –
Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ
kn4qj@arrl.net

Net control operator – Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ

Alt. net control operator – Jim Altman, W4UCK

Georgia Section ARES Digital Nets:

Section Digital Net Manager, Don Jones, K4GO
k4go@arrl.net

Digital Team Leaders also serve as net control operators.

Winlink Team Lead, Russell Prevost, AB4QQ

Net control operators: Brian Freeman KN4DLT, Mark Bell N7GRB, Bill Hall K9HRO

PSK & Traffic Nets Team Lead, Del Davis, W4DEL

Net control operators: Bob Garza K4TLG, Don Jones K4GO Ken Wallis KM4HOS, Richard Austin W4BYT

D-RATS Net Team Lead, Hank Blackwood, K4HYJ

Net control operators: Rial Sloan AI4ZV, Brian Freeman KN4DLT, Ed Walraven KM4IOA, Carter Grant KN4KBL

A.R.E.S. Monthly Report for January 2023

Number of DECs/ECs reporting - 40

Number of ARES nets - 1576

Nets with NTS liaison - 5

Number of Exercises &
Training Sessions - 511 (3211 hrs.)

Number of Public Service events - 13 (61 hrs.)

Number of Emergency Operations - 3 (112 hrs.)

Number of SkyWarn Operations - 36 (309 hrs.)

Total of Exercises & Events 563

Total of person hours 3693